

Syllabus for Math 443 / 538 – General Topology

Instructor: Stephen Semmes, HB 414, semmes@rice.edu.

Office hours: Normally I would say that one can often find me in my office, or make an appointment, but this should probably be interpreted in terms of Zoom at least some of the time this semester.

Course objectives: Study of basic point set topology, as a vast generalization of metric spaces, and including some discussion of set theory.

Grading: Part of the grade in this class will be based on a series of homework assignments. The other part will be based on individual projects on topics related to the subject of the course.

Absences: Although attendance is not directly included in the grading, students are of course responsible for all of the material covered in class.

Textbooks: B. Mendelson, *Introduction to Topology*, 3rd edition, Dover, 1990; T. Gamelin and R. Greene, *Introduction to Topology*, 2nd edition, Dover, 1999; I. Kaplansky, *Set Theory and Metric Spaces*, AMS Chelsea, 2001.

Examinations and papers: No examinations are expected in this course, and there will be one required project, in addition to the homework assignments, as above.

Assignments: No pledged assignments are expected in this course, and students are permitted to discuss the homework and their projects with each other.

Any student with a disability that requires accomodation is encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

The information contained in this syllabus, other than the absence policy, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

The Dept of Mathematics supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and recognized as a source of strength. Racism, discrimination, harassment, and bullying will not be tolerated. We expect all participants in mathematics courses (students and faculty alike) to treat each other with courtesy and respect, and to adhere to the mathematics department standards of collegiality, respect, and sensitivity (<https://math.rice.edu/departement-statement-collegiality-respect-and-sensitivity>) as well as the Rice Student Code of Conduct. If you think you have

experienced or witnessed unprofessional or antagonistic behavior, then the matter should be brought to the attention of the instructor and/or department chair. The Ombudsperson is also available as an intermediate, informal option, and contacting them will not necessarily trigger a formal inquiry.

Title IX Responsible Employee Notification

Rice University cares about your wellbeing and safety. Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of harassment, pregnancy discrimination or gender discrimination or relationship, sexual, or other forms interpersonal violence to seek support through The SAFE Office. Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees, including myself, as the instructor/TA, are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. For more information, please visit safe.rice.edu or email titleixsupport@rice.edu.